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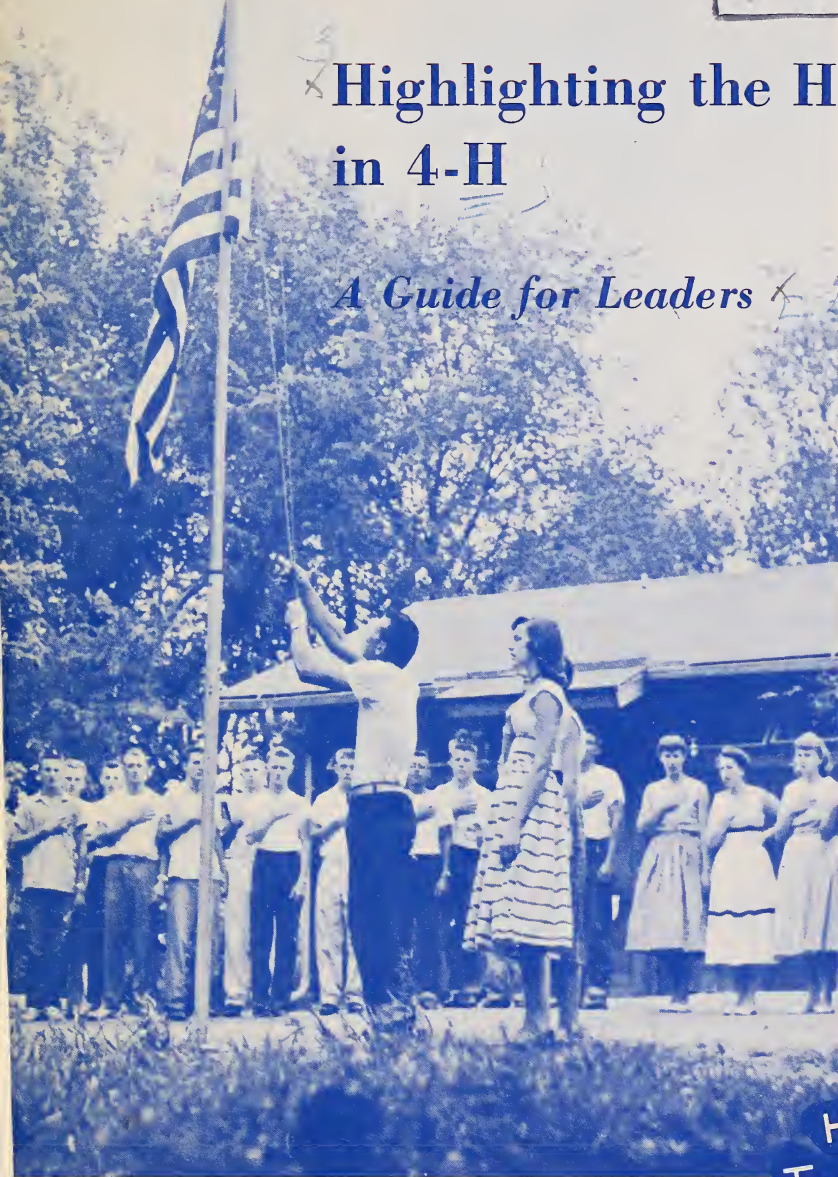
CURRENT SPECIAL RECORD

★ SEP 30 1959 ★

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Highlighting the Heart H in 4-H

A Guide for Leaders



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FEDERAL EXTENSION SERVICE

PA-376

Dear Mr. (County Extension Agent):

I am the local leader of the Happy Hustlers 4-H Club. Our club is about average for our county, I guess. We carry on most of the recommended projects and activities.

However, I feel there is something missing. For example, our boys and girls carry on a pretty good monthly meeting. Their projects meet the minimum requirements. But I'm not quite satisfied with their growth as individuals. I don't quite know how to express it but there seems to be too much selfish pushing for individual prestige and too little acceptance of group responsibility.

At our State 4-H Local Leaders meeting last summer I remember one of our speakers talked on "Spiritual Emphasis in 4-H." I can't remember much of what he said but a poem he quoted so impressed me that I looked it up. You may be familiar with it. It is "Man-Making" by Edwin Markham:

We all are blind until we see
That in the human plan,
Nothing is worth the making
If it does not make the man.
Why build these cities glorious,
If man unbuilded goes?
In vain, we build the world, unless
The builder also grows.

I felt that the speaker was talking right to me. I was all inspired to go back to my club and give more attention to the Heart "H" in all we did. But I find that I don't know just where to begin. Can you help me?

Sincerely yours,

Local Leader.

Dear Local Leader:

Your concern for help in the area of spiritual emphasis in 4-H Club work is similar to that of leaders everywhere.

Spiritual emphasis need not be a thing set apart. Rather it is an integral part that permeates everything we do. It is evidenced by the concern we feel for the least promising member as well as the pride we have when one of our members receives a well-earned blue ribbon . . . it is helping a needy family as a community service . . . it is the association of our members with those institutions and individuals who help us lead richer and fuller lives . . . it is building mutual respect and appreciation through sharing and working together.

Yes, all of the features of 4-H Club work can contribute to the development of the Heart "H"—the spiritual emphasis in 4-H.

How? In order to answer this we need to understand what is meant by spiritual emphasis, and where it fits in the 4-H setting. Then we will be ready to look at spiritual emphasis in action—examples of things to be done by individuals and groups; pitfalls to avoid; and sources of help.

A new publication on this subject is being developed.

Sincerely yours,

County Extension Agent.

Many requests for guidance in the Heart H emphasis have been received. As a result a national committee on spiritual emphasis in 4-H Club work was established to give overall leadership and direction. Members of the committee representing both 4-H Club work and church included:

4-H REPRESENTATIVES: Ima R. Crisman, assistant State 4-H Club leader, S. Dak., chairman; Geronimo Chavez, assistant State Club leader, N. Mex.; George Foster, State 4-H Club leader, Tenn.; Horace M. Jones, former State 4-H Club leader, Mass.; Burton W. Marston, State 4-H Club leader, Wyo.; E. I. Pilchard, former State 4-H Club leader, Ill.; Lonnie Safley, former State 4-H Club leader, Tenn.; Fern Shipley, associate leader, 4-H Club and YMW Programs, Federal Extension Service; Jack Tyree, associate State 4-H Club leader, Va.; and Erma Wines, assistant State 4-H Club leader, Tex.

CONSULTANTS: Rev. Richard O. Comfort, executive director, Town and Country Department, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA; Rev. Michael Dineen, executive secretary, National Catholic Rural Life Conference; T. A. Erickson, former State 4-H Club leader, Minn.; Garland A. Hendricks, associate professor of Church-Community, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.; Rev. E. W. Mueller, National Lutheran Council; and Rev. Gene Wetherell, Bible College of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. Other denominations and faiths not represented by these consultants were also given an opportunity to review and comment.

The theme of the appeal from local leaders, extension agents, and others has been as follows: "As a leader, I feel that I should do more to help our members make spiritual growth opportunities more prominent in their total 4-H program."

This guide was developed to help meet this need. Some preliminary work was done by H. M. Jones, former State 4-H Club leader, Massachusetts.

CONTENTS

	Page
Letter from local leader.....	2
Letter to local leader.....	3
The Heart H spiritual emphasis.....	5
The Heart H in the 4-H setting.....	6
Spiritual emphasis in action.....	7
Opportunities for spiritual emphasis in 4-H.....	10
The development of 4-H Club work.....	18

COVER PHOTOGRAPH. Pledge to the flag by a group of 4-H campers.
Iowa Extension Service.

3 Highlighting the Heart H in 4-H *A Guide for Leaders* cby2

George Foster and
P. F. Aylesworth¹

Faith in spiritual values, and in ourselves, is a God given faith. Let us rededicate ourselves to the principle taught us by that great Leader, who as He grew from boyhood to manhood "Increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."

C. M. FERGUSON,
Administrator, Federal Extension Service.

The Heart H Spiritual Emphasis

What Is It?

By spiritual emphasis we mean the development and the furtherance of the values that result from the relationship existing between God and man and, in turn, between an individual and his fellowmen.

Spiritual emphasis in 4-H Club work encompasses both the quality of product produced and what happens to the individual in the process. Desirable goals for the individual are the making of a better intellectual, moral, and physical person.

The 4-H member engages in creative activity which often brings him into close contact with spiritual forces in nature itself. Such experience gives him a sense of being a coworker with the Creator of the Universe. He has opportunity to learn and to practice honesty; fairness; understanding; co-operation; responsibility; healthful living; tolerance; wholesome use of leisure time; loyalty to his God, to others, and to the finest within himself.

As 4-H Club leaders we encourage the development of the spiritual in 4-H members, knowing that this is the thing that deepens and sweetens the quality of their lives and makes them good homemakers, good neighbors, good citizens. . . . Without special ceremony or the ringing of bells or the sound of trumpet do club leaders develop something of the true, the beautiful, and the good in rural youth, and help club members to become good companions, good citizens, good neighbors, cultured men and women who know how to live and develop within them the active soul—the one thing in the world of supreme value.

From "Life Worth While" by Dr. C. B. Smith.

The Heart H pledge is—I Pledge My Heart to Greater Loyalty.

The 4-H Club Creed—I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to become kind, sympathetic, and true.

¹ George Foster is State 4-H Club leader in Tennessee, and P. F. Aylesworth of the Federal Extension Service is Department of Agriculture liaison with national rural church leaders.



Figure 1. Working with growing plants and animals gives the club member an appreciation of the laws of nature.
Ind. Ext. Service.

The Heart "H" in the 4-H Setting

If a boy has produced a grand champion steer and has not become a grand champion himself, the project has not been successful. It is not what the boy or girl does on his record that is important, but what the making of that record does for the boy or girl.

A State 4-H Club Leader.

The 4-H program has long emphasized projects. In the Heart H attention is given to the development of the individual as the most important thing—a concern for personal worth. We call this "Spiritual Emphasis."

"Spiritual Emphasis" is as important an aspect of 4-H Club work as any other. One aim of 4-H Club work is to help young people develop an adequate set of values for living. Desirable goals for the individual are the making of a more adequate spiritual, intellectual, moral, and physical person. A growing young person's ideas and attitudes about himself become woven into the pattern of his personality and help to determine his relations with others. The development of a sense of self is too important to be left to chance.

Always striving to be honest and forgiving and to do the thing which is right and honorable in the eyes of God and our fellow man makes up the sum and substance of "Spiritual Emphasis." It encompasses the development of each person, and recognition of the intrinsic worth of every other person.

There are many ways in which this purpose can be accomplished by the resourceful 4-H leader. It is not necessarily an item by itself, but rather something woven into the 4-H program in all of its activities.

Encouraging your 4-H Club member to help some other person, to share successes and disappointments, joys, and sorrows, all lead to mutual understanding and developing the philosophy of an abundant life. When you promote good sportsmanship among your 4-H members you are adding to their appreciation of spiritual values.

Two outstanding 4-H Club leaders have stated the need: Miss Ima Crisman, Chairman of the committee on spiritual emphasis, summarizes it in this manner. “. . . Let us take the attitude *that we are not trying to spiritualize 4-H Club work but are trying to emphasize the spiritual already basic and present in the program.*” As a result of a thorough study of this field T. A. Erickson, former Minnesota State 4-H Club leader, said in *The Church and 4-H Clubs*, “The study leads to the conclusion that a closer partnership between rural youth programs and the church is very desirable.”

Therefore, there is a twofold opportunity of *giving further emphasis to the spiritual in 4-H Club work both within the 4-H program itself as well as in cooperation with the churches and other community institutions.*

The discovery, the unfolding and the blossoming out of powers, abilities, and hidden possibilities in the person, in the family, and in the community are of greater value than the material accomplishment, no matter how great, significant, or praiseworthy they may be.

From “A Program for Rural Youth,”
The National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Spiritual Emphasis in Action

How to Include the Heart H—Some Guides

As we look at the meaning of the Heart H as it relates to the 4-H Club program we see that the broad goals of 4-H Club work all have a relationship to the Heart H. Through leadership training meetings and 4-H Club literature further understanding can be gained as these emphasize the objectives of 4-H Club work and what it can do for boys and girls. These help us realize more fully the importance of the Heart H—the spiritual growth opportunities in the 4-H Club program.

However, this does not answer the question of *how to begin*. How can you as leaders emphasize and practice the values inherent in 4-H Club work in order to help members grow in appreciation of human values, in qualities of character and attitudes in everyday living?

You, the Leader

Before you think in terms of new programs you will want to consider the following:

Spiritual emphasis depends largely on you—the local leader.

Have you taken time to put into words some of your basic beliefs about 4-H Club work?

If not that is the first step. Write them down. It may be difficult but it will be helpful.

If you are a new leader you will want to study carefully the section on “The Development of 4-H Club Work” in the back part of this guide (see pp. 18 and 19). More experienced leaders may want to review it. A deep

understanding of 4-H is basic and vital to intelligent spiritual emphasis in 4-H.

Worth of the Individual—Everyone Counts

Take a look at your list. Is it apparent from your list that you have a basic concern for and belief in the worth of every individual and his right to an opportunity to attain his fullest potential?

If you have this basic ingredient then you are ready for the next step. But vigilance is required. Lest we forget—we all need to remind ourselves continually that we aren't working with *numbers* in 4-H. We are working with human beings, who have dignity from God and whose destiny is eternal. Who knows what greatness lies dormant within the heart of the most unpromising youth in your community. Maybe you can furnish the spark to ignite that greatness. As Thomas Carlyle said, "Oh, it is great and there is no other greatness—to make some human heart a little wiser, manlier, happier, and more blessed."

You may want to compare your list of basic beliefs about 4-H Club work with the following one prepared by the Indiana 4-H Club staff.

This I Believe

(It's not only what we know but what we believe that determines what we do.)

1. The 4-H boys and girl are more important than the 4-H project.
2. 4-H is not trying to replace the home, the church, and the school—only supplement.
3. 4-H'ers should be their own best exhibit.
4. No 4-H award is worth sacrificing the reputation of a 4-H member or leader.
5. Competition is a natural human trait and should be recognized as such in 4-H Club work. It should be given no more emphasis than other fundamentals in 4-H.
6. Learning how to do the project is more important than the project itself.
7. Many things are caught rather than taught.
8. A blue ribbon 4-H boy with a red ribbon pig is more desirable than a red ribbon boy with a blue ribbon pig.
9. To "learn by doing" is a fundamental in any sound educational program and characteristic of the 4-H program.

Figure 2.—A good leader stimulates 4-H members not only to think as individuals but to know the reason for their thinking. Mont. Ext. Service.





Figure 3. The opportunity to exchange ideas with others helps the club member to gain values and standards to live by.
Ind. Ext. Service.

10. Generally speaking, there is more than one good way of doing most things.
11. Every 4-H member needs to be noticed, to be important, to achieve and to be praised.
12. Our job is to teach 4-H members how to think, not what to think.

Planning Ahead

From experience we know that we can't trust to chance that our program activities will automatically result in situations favorable to Heart H growth. Planning is needed.

Look at your club's program to see if it is providing an opportunity for each person to reach his maximum growth, if it serves to deepen his reverence for life and sense of the role he is to fulfill, if it gives a sense of belonging and an awareness of stewardship responsibilities.

You may find you need to add activities or give additional emphasis to certain phases of the program to give proper balance to the Heart H.

You or the committee might check new ideas with club councilors, advisory groups of parents, and other interested adults. You will find that local clergy are eager to cooperate. They may already be serving as resource persons on the Heart H development committee or as a member of an advisory group. You will want to help your club bring advisors in to help plan for greater spiritual emphasis in 4-H.

Remember what T. A. Erickson said, ". . . there is a twofold opportunity of giving further emphasis to the spiritual in 4-H Club work both within the 4-H program itself as well as in cooperation with the churches and other community institutions."

In the following section you'll find many suggestions to make full use of the spiritual emphasis inherent in the 4-H program itself and to carry out the objective of cooperation with churches.² These suggestions are arranged under the three objectives of Heart H developed by the spiritual emphasis committee.

² Wherever the word church is used it refers to church or synagogue. Clergy refers to minister, priest, or rabbi.

Opportunities for Spiritual Emphasis in 4-H

The Development of Values

Objective:

To provide a maximum number of opportunities for 4-H members to have experiences which will aid them in developing a *high set of values and in living by those standards.*

Look at Your Program

Does your approach and program help 4-H Club members develop an adequate set of values for living which have a spiritual base? Are they developing a sense of stewardship so that their daily lives will not be a selfish quest but, an opportunity to serve; that life is larger than self? Do they have a sense of belonging—of a role to fulfill? Do they have an understanding of the views of others and a respect for their convictions? The following ideas may help 4-H Club members develop these qualities.

Prepare for a creative life work. Relate your daily activities to future plans. Choose that profession which offers you the maximum chance to express yourself in releasing the potentialities dammed up in human beings.

Live in the presence of beauty. Go away into the country for a day and consciously seek beauty in nature. Learn to appreciate the harmonies of music. Discover deeper meanings in life from art and poetry and literature.

Pitch your friendship on a high level. Share your most significant experiences and problems with an intimate friend.

Read great biographies. Saturate yourself with the experiences of the noblest characters of history and contemporary life.

Actions You Can Take

You can help members see divine law and order in nature.

- a. Through 4-H projects there are opportunities for the boy or girl to find deep satisfaction in growing things and to gain respect for the laws of nature as they work with animals and plants. Working creatively in association with nature, youth learns the “whys” as well as the “hows” of natural forces and laws. The values in conservation of physical and human resources are revealed.
- b. The character building values in nature can be utilized. Many of the traditional values associated with rural life arise from opportunities for close association with nature. Consciously seek beauty in nature and make application to the program.
- c. Include out-of-door inspirational programs, which are usually associated with camps or away-from-home events. They can also be used in local club meetings. Much of the deep meaning about the Heart-H comes into focus for participants in these quiet times when

groups meet together with singleness of purpose. Different terms are used to describe the inspirational programs where 4-H groups meet together at close of day, at sunset, or in the morning.

A term suggested for such a program is *concord*, which signifies "together in heart." It connotes an agreeing group, such as 4-H, acting together harmoniously.

Whatever such a program is called it should be acceptable to all persons involved and the content material should be in common usage locally.

Most of the States have 4-H bulletins with suggestions for developing such programs and examples of material to use. These bulletins usually include material on ceremonials, pledges, and recognition and installation services.

Great Living starts with a picture, held in a person's mind of what he would like some day to do or be.

—Harry Emerson Fosdick.

You can use ceremonials, meditations, and recognition services to enrich regular 4-H meetings and special events—camps, rallies, conferences.

a. The following offer opportunities for symbolism, pageantry, and group participation in regular meetings.

1. *Pledges*.—Added significances to the 4-H Club Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag can be gained by encouraging members to study their origin and meaning. (See "The 4-H Story" for interesting material on the 4-H Pledge.) Where appropriate, the pledge to the Christian Flag can be used.
2. *Meditations*.—These can be used at the beginning of 4-H meetings. Appropriate readings, songs, or other music can help create thoughtful atmosphere.
3. *Ceremonials*.—Installation services, citizenship ceremonies, and

Figure 4. Meeting outstanding citizens helps club members recognize and set standards for leadership.

N. Mex. Ext. Service.



recognition services lend dignity to programs. Members remember these events as highlights of club work.

b. For special events you can encourage:

1. A quiet time for private communion with God through study, reading, and meditation.
2. Use of grace (thanking God for our daily bread) before meals.

The great force that readjusts the world originates in the home. Home conditions will ultimately mold the man's life. A country home, be it ever so plain, with a father and mother of gentle culture, is nature's university, and is more richly endowed for the training of youth than Yale or Harvard.

—Dr. Seaman A. Knapp.

You can stress the whole family interest and the home. 4-H Club work is a home centered program. The home is the place where leadership can best get its start and where the groundwork is laid for successful living.

. . . To find the job for which you were made and in which you can really be yourself and bring out the best that is in you: that is a sound and healthy aim for everyone.

From "Stewards of the Mysteries of Christ,"
by W. Norman Pittenger.

You can include a study series in the 4-H program on *career exploration*.

- a. In consultation with your advisors plan ways of informing young people on vocations so that they may gain a vision of lives of service, both in full-time church and secular occupations. 4-H members should be brought to see the opportunity for spiritual service in whatever career they choose. This concept is well presented in a number of references including, "Your Other Vocation" by Dr. Elton Trueblood.

You can stress stewardship to God as it relates to vocational choices and family life.

- b. You may use the following means to carry out this program.



Figure 5. Ceremonies, such as these, help to develop the 4-H Club member's appreciation of the values of good citizenship. N-21610

1. Talks and discussion led by laymen and clergy typifying career opportunities.
 2. Members can study and report on the lives of fine outstanding men and women of the past.
 3. Visit institutions that render service and encourage the finer things of life and learn about their program and activities.
 4. Build up a file of reference materials in career development for study and guidance of members.
- c. A reminder. Don't wait until your group has reached the older youth (senior or "Hi 4-H") stage. Junior high or late elementary school isn't too early to start.

If you want to get the most out of life try the things that challenge you most!

—Hiel D. Bollinger.

Responsibilities to Others

Objective.

To assist 4-H members in recognizing their *opportunities and responsibilities to others* in living an abundant life.

Look at Your Program

Clubs as well as individuals can be self-centered. Just as an individual needs to have an acceptance of group responsibility so does your club need to have a community consciousness. The failure of members to have a broad outlook can be a reflection of narrowness of the outreach of the club. How about community service activities? Are there opportunities for leadership and citizenship development? Are any of your members participating in the God-Home-Country award programs? Is your club broadening its horizons by sending delegates to area, State, and National conferences, camps, or workshops? Is sufficient opportunity provided for sharing these "mountaintop" experiences?

Actions You Can Take

You can include community service projects in your 4-H Club program. For example:

- a. Prepare Thanksgiving dinner baskets for distribution to the needy.
- b. Supervise a community Christmas tree.
- c. Assist with a community library.
- d. Sponsor a community playground or other type of recreation program.
- e. Join with other organizations in a constructive celebration of Halloween.
- f. Beautify church, school, and community grounds.
- g. Conduct or cooperate in community activities related to conservation and stewardship of our natural resources such as:

Tree planting.

Soil Stewardship Week.

Farm Safety Week.

Farm-City Week.



Figure 6. A tree planted by a club group will be a growing, living symbol of the result of working together as a group.
N-17493

Such activities have an *added advantage*. They have a particular appeal to teenagers, because it involves all members on a group basis.

You can increase the consciousness of members to the larger world about them and the opportunities for forming *world friendships*.

- a. The International Farm Youth Exchange with its two-way exchange is an effective force in working for world understanding.
 1. Present and former members of 4-H Clubs often have an opportunity to participate by going to other lands.
 2. Your club can extend hospitality to young people from other countries, and help provide opportunities for others in the community to get a better understanding of the life of young people beyond our national boundary lines.
- b. The "People to People" program offers an opportunity to help promote closer understanding and cooperation among the people of the world and the people of the United States.
- c. You can stress sharing with less fortunate people of other lands. This could include sending food, clothing, animals, seeds, and equipment abroad. CROP, CARE, and the Heifer Project, Inc., are examples of such programs.
- d. You can develop a discussion series on "What Others Believe," to help club members have an understanding of different cultures, and a respect for the convictions of others. Ask International Farm Youth Exchangees to participate in the series. When planning activities related to spiritual aspects look to your clergy for guidance as to which are appropriate for 4-H Clubs and which for churches.

Excellent movies on this subject may be secured through the visual aids departments of church publishing houses. Your clergy advisors can obtain and assist in showing them.

You can help club members develop an appreciation for others.

- a. Encourage 4-H Club members to carry out acts of good sportsman-

ship, to practice concern for others, and to experience truly democratic living.

- b. Recognize acts of helpfulness on the part of members.
- c. Encourage club members to write personal letters of appreciation to those who assist in the 4-H Club program and to visit sponsors to thank them.
- d. Help club members hold an event where appreciation for parents, sponsors, leaders can be shown, such as a banquet, picnic, or other event.

Democracy's real promise is the growth of each individual to his maximum potential.

From *The American Teenager*,
by H. H. Remmers and D. H. Radler.

You can provide opportunities for other boys and girls to be 4-H Club members.

- a. Survey or take a census of how well the community is being served in 4-H Club work. Don't rely on guess work! Are there boys and girls who have been "written off" for one reason or another?
- b. Look for opportunities for serving other boys and girls within your own club when forming new groups.
- c. Provide a growth outlet for members and a service to others by encouraging older members to become junior leaders.

Figure 7. Opportunities to serve as junior leaders help older club members develop their own leadership qualities as they help others.

Mo. Ext. Service.



Cooperation With Churches

Objective:

To encourage 4-H members to look to the *church of their choice* for spiritual growth in living.

To cooperate with the church in the interests of young people and provide opportunities for the clergy and the churches to become familiar with the spiritual aspects and the meaning of 4-H Club work.

Look at Your Program

It is necessary for 4-H Club leaders and supporters to know and understand the responsibilities of the church before they can develop their programs. These responsibilities have been defined by the committee on spiritual emphasis.

Responsibilities of the Church in the Community.—The church has the responsibility of presenting the needs of worship, supplying religious training, providing formal worship services, and explaining the theological interpretations of spiritual life.

Responsibility of 4-H in the community.—The 4-H Club has the responsibility of providing its members with opportunities for experiences which will help them develop their head, heart, hands, and health. In the Heart H development, 4-H Clubs look to ministers and church officials for much guidance.

The youth organizations are boosters for the various churches. Reverence for God and regular attendance at worship are encouraged by these groups; but they don't try to take over the duties of the church.

But in the activities of these organizations, the boys and girls have a chance to put into practice the ideas they've learned in church. The capacity for obedience shows up in their work habits. Christian love reflects itself in willingness to help others, and the spirit with which a club member accepts victory or defeat. A concern for others may be reflected in community service projects. Courage is shown when a club member fails and cheerfully begins again.

—First the Blade,

E. W. Mueller and Betty Westrom Skold.

Actions You Can Take

You can help club members develop an awareness of the opportunities provided them in attending the church of their choice for worship, religious training, and other activities.

- a. Leaders and extension workers should avoid scheduling club activities on Sundays. Travel or other programs should not interfere with the member's opportunity to attend worship.
- b. When 4-H events are held over Sunday leaders should:
Provide 4-H members the opportunity to attend the church of their choice when distances or other circumstances do not pose too difficult a problem.
Arrange for time and facilities for individuals to worship as a part of the total program where 4-H'ers are located. Extension agents and volunteer leaders have the responsibility of contacting clergymen to conduct worship service.

You can develop an organized program of cooperation with the churches.

- a. Provide information to the churches on the spiritual values inherent in the 4-H Club program and the opportunities for service 4-H

Club work offers. The clergy should be encouraged to call attention, in their services, to these qualities in 4-H.

b. Arrange for church observances in which 4-H Clubs participate.³

Most important is Rural Life Sunday, the fifth Sunday after Easter. This day is set apart for the invocation of God's blessing upon the seed, the fruits of the soil, and the cultivators of the earth.

The usual pattern is for churches to set aside the Sunday morning hour for a worship service with a sermon or an address centered on the spiritual realities and values of rural life. Local agricultural groups such as 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers of America, Farm Bureau, Grange, Farmer's Union, and conservation groups are often invited to attend and share the service.

Some suggested ways that 4-H members might participate in such Rural Life Sunday observances are—

Supply the cooperating ministers with information about 4-H Club work. Offer any assistance needed in arranging for the observances.

Encourage 4-H members to help decorate the church; be greeters, ushers, or choir members; give talks; read poems, creeds, pledges, prayers, or scripture.

Encourage members to wear their uniforms, membership pins, or other 4-H identifications.

Encourage 4-H members to bring parents, neighbors and friends to the service.

Recognize 4-H leaders and other "Friends of 4-H" as a part of the observance.

If it is in keeping with local custom and practices, you might make arrangements for a community 4-H program in addition to observances in various churches, such as a sunrise or sunset service in some scenic setting. A few words of caution . . . This does not mean religious (formal worship) under 4-H Club auspices. Avoid favoring one religious group against another. If members desire to participate in a church function as a group, the decision should be arrived at in a democratic manner. However, no individual or minority should be made to feel they must conform.

The God-Home-Country Award.—An attractive medal and a citation given by two national church groups. This recognition is given to club members who have creditably fulfilled their membership in a 4-H Club, including projects and activities for not less than 3 years, and who are faithful and actively participate in the program of the church to which they belong.

³ See "Aids for Observance of National 4-H Club Events," PA 214, Extension Service, USDA, 1952, for more detailed information regarding church services in which 4-H Clubs may cooperate and sources of planning aids.

Sponsorship of 4-H Clubs.—Every 4-H Club group needs the active sponsorship and support of a group of adults. One of the best sponsors of 4-H Club work can be the church or churches in a community. You might explore this with your clergy advisors. See “How the Rural Church and 4-H Clubs Work Together” in “The Church and 4-H Clubs” by T. A. Erickson, General Mills, Minneapolis 1, Minn.

A word of caution. It is suggested that when a church sponsors a 4-H Club for its community, that the club not be known by the church name, such as Lutheran, Methodist, Catholic, or Baptist 4-H Club.

The Development of 4-H Club Work

The Roots Go Deep

4-H Club work is too great a movement to be claimed by any one man.

Club work is one of the most unique educational programs of our time. It is voluntary. It dignifies the homely, practical arts of living, holding that scholarship can be applied to cooking, and creative intelligence to tilling the soil.

. . . club work today engages the enthusiastic attention of 2 million. . . boys and girls and 200,000 voluntary adult leaders. It is guided throughout the United States and its territories jointly by the Cooperative Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and the land-grant colleges.

The 4-H program, as it is known today evolved from small beginnings. It was shaped by many influences. Like the tree that shades the farmhouse, it grew slowly and soundly, throwing out its branches, taking its character from the fertile soil in which it was so deeply rooted.

Adapted from “The 4-H Story” by Franklin M. Reck.

4-H Club work grew out of a specific need in rural America. It had roots in many places, and many persons guided the movement in its formative years. At about the turn of the century, in several different localities,



Figure 8. Members working with their parents in repairing and painting a club house learn the value of group participation. Mass. Ext. Service.

rural young people began uniting their efforts in learn-to-do-by-doing activities centered on improved agriculture. Various agricultural leaders began discovering that one of the best ways to get scientific methods used on farms and in homes was to start with youth.

Although no one place or date can be designated nationally as the start of what is now 4-H Club work, various States appropriately pay tribute to their own beginnings, their pioneers, and their program advancement.

The 4-H Club idea now circles the globe. More than 40 countries, in widely separated areas of the world, have adopted all or part of the plan and adapted it to their own needs and conditions.

Wherever they are, 4-H Club members strive individually and cooperatively for better citizenship, better living, better family relationships, and better world understanding.

Some Distinguishing Features

4-H members, with the skilled guidance of the county extension agent and local leaders develop their own programs of work, play, and adventure in homemaking, farming, and general community improvement.

Through participation in real-life situations and helpful work, these young people develop a way of life built on self-help and consideration for the rights of others. They learn to play as well as to work with others and to practice cooperation. They learn to become self-reliant, to love the truth, and to look beyond the simple daily tasks to their place in the life of the Nation and in world affairs. Through their own self-developed programs, 4-H members everywhere are experiencing fuller, more meaningful lives, rich in possibilities for attractive, and satisfying homes. They are getting a well-rounded education in rewarding and challenging occupations, taking responsibilities in their own communities, and becoming stalwart citizens, holding firmly to the right.

From "Building a Better America Through 4-H Clubs,"
by Gertrude L. Warren.

Local Leaders

Another distinguishing feature of 4-H Club work is the volunteer leader. There are few undertakings more challenging than that of a volunteer 4-H Club leader. The horizons are unlimited.

Local leaders are key persons in 4-H Club work. In fact, they are the backbone of 4-H Club work all over the country. The success or failure of 4-H Club work depends to a great extent on the interest and initiative of the local leaders. The boys and girls in any 4-H Club are a mirror of what their leader is like. If you see a 4-H Club at work, you can tell a great deal about what kind of a leader it has.

Local leaders have a vital part to play in 4-H Club work. That function is to help boys and girls plan and carry out a program based on their needs, interests and abilities. This program is aimed to develop not only the boys and girls, but through them, to enrich the life of the entire community.

Our young people aren't so bad; it's just that they have more critics than models.

I hope we'll keep in mind what I consider the most basic thing in 4-H Club work and that's the building of character.

Ezra Taft Benson.